



BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Cynthia Howk DATE: Dec., 1994
133 S. Fitzhugh St.
YOUR ADDRESS: Rochester, NY 14608 TELEPHONE: 546-7029
ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Murray - Perkins House
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN/CITY: Greece VILLAGE: ---
3. STREET LOCATION: 2655 Ridgeway Avenue
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒ 1711 Harris Rd.
5. PRESENT OWNER: James, Robert & John ADDRESS: Penfield, NY 14526
6. USE: Original residence/farm Dugan Present: residence
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☒ d. board and batten ☐
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other: _____
Roof - asphalt shingles. Foundation - parqueted fieldstone.
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☐
(if known) b. wood frame with light members ☐
c. masonry load bearing walls ☒
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☐ b. good ☐ c. fair ☒ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"This is a house that has a lot of appeal, despite its alterations. There's something striking about those vertical proportions (something dark & sinister - sort of a Greek Revival Charles Addams house!). It's a 'green' - though it was obviously an important Greek Revival brick house in its time. It has potential to be rehabilitated back to its historic appearance." P.Malo.

COLOR CODE

Green



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☐ b. zoning ☒ c. roads ☐
d. developers ☒ e. deterioration ☒
f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn ☐ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☒
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☐ f. greenhouse ☐
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐
i. landscape features: deciduous & coniferous trees & shrubs
j. other: Erie Canal borders south property line.
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land ☒ b. woodland ☒
c. scattered building ☒
d. densely built-up ☐ e. commercial ☒ - Canal Park Office complex
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☒ to east of property.
h. other: _____
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1830s - 1852

ARCHITECT: not determined

BUILDER: not determined

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES: (see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: agricultural: former farm residence; transportation : Erie Canal.

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11c.

Modern, multi-pane picture window installed on facade (north elevation) to replace two smaller windows (east window opening has been bricked-in), mid-1900s.

Original front porch has been replaced with a contemporary porch (modern porch posts and concrete block steps/foundation), c. 1970s-80s.

The one-story porch on the west elevation has been enclosed; the porch foundation and steps have been rebuilt with concrete block construction, c. 1950s-60s.

Cinder block chimney on east elevation, added mid-1900s.

One-story, gable-roofed, cinder block, two-car garage added onto the rear (south elevation) of the house, mid-1900s.

17. The Murray-Perkins House is located on 17.8-acre lot on the south side of Ridgeway Avenue in the southwest quadrant of the town. Just west of the Long Pond Road intersection, the house maintains a deep set-back from the roadway. There are no other buildings on the site. To the east is the Canal Park Office complex. Surrounding the house to the immediate west, south and east is open, undeveloped woodland. The present Erie Canal is located along the southern border of the property. At the northwest corner of the property is the original Erie Canal bed (abandoned c. 1920), now overgrown. The Park Ridge Hospital/Health Facilities campus is across the street to the north. The residential neighborhood to the west has mostly post-World War II houses.

18. Two-and-one-half-story, front-gable-and-side-wing, brick farmhouse (c. 1830s-1852) with one-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed rear wing and contemporary, attached, one-story garage. The front-gabled block is two-bays-wide by three-bays-deep. The side-gabled wing is two-bays-wide by two-bays-deep. The house stands on a coursed, stone foundation (much of which is now pargeted with concrete). A stone watertable is located atop the foundation. Fenestration is regular and symmetrical with 6/6 and 6/1, double-hung windows. Most of the windows have stone lintels and sills. Two windows on the first story of the facade (north elevation) have been removed and replaced by a modern, multi-pane picture window (see

18. continued

11c.). In the side-wing section, the four, second-story windows have 3/3 wood sash. The broadly-pitched gable roof includes a wide cornice in the pediments and gable end returns.

With its contemporary posts, foundation and steps, the one-story porch located on the facade appears to be a replacement for the original porch here. The original entrance leads out onto this porch from the north wall. The front door, which looks like an early-20th century replacement, has six panes of glazing in the upper half and a solid lower half.

The one-story, shed-roofed, side porch has been enclosed with contemporary windows and a knee wall. A secondary entrance leads out onto this porch from the west elevation.

A contemporary, two-car garage of cinder block construction is attached to the rear, one-story wing of the house.

20. The Murray-Perkins House is architecturally significant in the town as a distinctive example of an mid-19th-century, vernacular farmhouse with Greek Revival details. It is also one of the diminishing number of 19th-century, brick farmhouses that survive in the town. This historic property with its house and surrounding 17.8 acres is historically significant as an important visual reminder of both the town's agricultural heritage and its association with the original Erie Canal (located adjacent to this site).

The front-wing-and-side-gable house is representative of the typical vernacular farmhouse built in Greece during the mid-19th century. Although the house has had some changes, it retains much of its basic form, massing, materials, and vernacular detailing. The broad pitch of the roof, wide cornice in the front and west gables, and gable end returns are details that derive from the Greek Revival style, popular from the 1830s-'50s in western New York.

Although the front and west side porches have been rebuilt with contemporary materials, it is possible that these porches originally included Greek Revival posts and pilasters (no longer extant). The removal of the contemporary picture window on the facade, the re-construction of the two original facade windows, as well as the reconstruction of historically appropriate front and side porches would increase the

20. continued

architectural significance of this house.

It is not possible to determine the exact date of construction for this house. With its front-gable-and-side-wing plan and simple vernacular Greek Revival details, it could have been built anywhere from the 1830s to the 1850s (it first appears on the 1852 county map). Located next to the original Erie Canal (which opened in 1825), this site was certainly a prime location for development. The construction of the brick farmhouse here was likely spurred by this immediate access to the canal and transportation.

The house is first shown on the 1852 county map with the name, "W. Murray" as owner. A second building is shown on this site, immediately to the west of the house and next to the canal (on the south bank). At that time, Ridgeway Avenue (un-named on the map) is shown as an east-west roadway. Just to the northwest of this house the road makes a V-shaped jog - first southwest, then northwest (and over the canal). The Erie Canal bed runs diagonally southwest-to-northeast across the northwest corner of this property.

The name "W. Murray" on the 1852 map appears to be that of William Murray, born December 7, 1815 and died May 2, 1887. According to The History of Monroe County, 1788-1877, Murray was born in Ontario County, New York and settled in Greece in 1837; his post office address was "South Greece." It is possible, therefore, that he constructed this residence at 2655 Ridgeway Avenue shortly after his arrival in Greece (late 1830s).

On March 14, 1839, Murray married Lucy Reed (born August 17, 1819 and died May 31, 1887). Four children were born to them:

George Reed (baptized Oct. 4, 1847);
William Dickinson (1852-1872), baptized Sept. 5, 1852;
Frank Lindley (born 1859 or '63), his first wife was
Ida Whitlock (1864-1897); he is buried in the
Midwest;
Sophie, joined Parma Church on Sunday, Sept. 3, 1854,
married William Thurston, 2/1/1865.

William Reed was a Deacon of the Parma Greece Congregational Church, located at Ridge Road West and Manitou Road in the West Greece hamlet. He is buried in Spencerport.

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20. continued

Excerpts from the diary of Dr. Samuel B. Bradley show a number of references to the Murray family and their activities between 1839 and 1858. It includes activities such as singing (W. Murray paid \$1.00), lending a cutter/selling a cutter for \$72, meetings, buying peaches, traveling to Canandaigua and Rochester, and visiting neighbors (see attachments).

The 1869-70 county directory lists William Murray as a farmer with 80 acres in South Greece on lot 152. This lot is on the east side of Manitou Road, just north of the Erie Canal. It appears that Murray moved to this location from the Ridgeway Avenue property by the late 1860s. The 1872 county map shows W. Murray at the Manitou Road location.

The 1872 county map shows the site at 2655 Ridgeway Avenue as lot 17. One building (this house) is shown marked, "J. Perkins" as owner. The Perkins family would continue as owners into the 1920s. Ridgeway Avenue is shown as "Ridge Road." The canal is located to the northwest of this house, where the road takes a jog over bridge that crosses the canal.

The 1902 county map shows this property as a 60.25-acre parcel owned by James H. Perkins on lot 117. Ridgeway Avenue is shown as "Big Ridge Road." The Erie Canal cuts through the northwest corner of this property, which is a rectangular parcel of land. Walker Road (now Long Pond Road) is shown to the east. In a 1/1995 interview with Al Wehner (born in 1906 at 2458 Ridgeway Ave.), he described this house as the "Perkins House." He did not recall any outbuildings on the property, but stated that there was a second house (no longer extant) just to the northwest of the Perkins House and closer to the roadway. This second house was next to the Erie Canal and "they used to fish out of the windows of the house," as it was so close to the waterway.

An April, 1918 photo shows the construction of the new Barge Canal, whose route cut through this property to the south of the house. The new Barge Canal and the original Erie Canal intersected a short distance to the west of 2655 Ridgeway Avenue. Here, at the intersection of the two canals, was constructed the Junction Lock. This lock was part of the old canal bed and was used during the 1918-1920 Barge Canal construction to connect the old and new sections of the canal bed.

20. continued

The 1924 county map shows the major changes regarding the original and new canals. This property at 2655 Ridgeway Avenue is shown as a 50-acre parcel owned by Almond Perkins. The brick house is shown with a small frame outbuilding to the southwest. The route of the Erie Canal (abandoned c. 1920) is shown across the northwest corner of the property; it is marked as "old canal bed." The "new canal" is shown to the south of the house. The new Barge Canal bisects this 50-acre parcel of land and separates the south part of the farm from the north part of the property. The 1930 suburban directory shows Harvey C. and Vida Craft at this address; he is listed as a machinist (the road is listed as "Big Ridge Road.").

The 1959 county map shows this property as a 17-acre parcel owned by A. & I. Castrechino. The brick house is shown with its cinder block rear wing (attached garage). The southern boundary of the property is the Barge Canal. The State of New York retains an adjacent right-of-way along the north bank of the canal bed. To the northwest of the house is the route of the "old Erie Canal bed." The western end of this canal bed is shown with some water in its trough and has the Junction Lock at its terminus with the Barge Canal. The western boundary of this 17-acre property contains the earthen canal walls of the original Erie Canal with two stone culverts and outflows (south to the Barge Canal and north to Round Pond Creek). In front of the house, the roadway has been renamed, "Ridgeway Avenue." Its former "jog" over the canal bed has been eliminated and the road now runs in a straight east-west path.

With the development of the Park Ridge campus to the north and the two large office parks to the east, this historic mid-19th century, vernacular, brick house and 17-acre site are threatened by the increasing pressure of commercial development in this neighborhood.

21. See final report for bibliography; 1/95 interview with Aloysius Wehner; Town Historian's vertical files.

1830 census - none

1850 census

	age	all born NYS	farmer
Murray, William A.	45		
Martha B.	43		
Henry G.	19		
William A.	15		
Daniel W.	14		
Rowland	11		
Eliza A.	5		
Frank	2		

Dr. Bradley's Baby Book

born	name of father		
June 29, 1827	James Reed	son	
Nov. 7, 1828	James M. Reed	dau.	
Aug. 6, 1846	John Reed	dau.	of Gates
Jan. 26, 1858	John Reed	dau.	
Dec. 27, 1829	Alfred Thurston	son	
Jan. 26, 1840	Wm. A. Murray	dau.	
Sept. 13, 1841	Wm. A. Murray	dau.	Sophie
Jan. 20, 1859	Wm. Murray	son	

No record ~~fixdath~~ of William or Lucy in Greece vital records of 1848 or 1849. Those two years are the only ones kept until 1882. *deaths in 1848*

From The History of Monroe County 1788-1877:
William Murray farming, born Ontario Co., N.Y.
settled in 1837, post office address, South Greece

1869-70 Directory for Greece

Wm. Murray S. Greece lot 152 farmer 80 acres
(lot 152 is the house on Manitou Rd. near the canal)

1885 Directory

Mary Murray North Greece embroidery teacher

Misc. Info:

Bill of Dr. Bradley's for Seneca Reed and Mary Reed paid by Wm. Murray 1868

Wm. W. Reed bapt. in Second Baptist Church Apr. 1833
Dismissed Nov. 3, 1835

Roxanna Reed bapt. (same date?) ~~Dismissed~~ Sept. 1839 Dropped

Harriet Reed owned property in Gates in 1864-65 Directory

Anna John Reed dismissed from Parma Corners Baptist Church Aug. 10, 1860

John Reed lived in Gates (repeat of above in births)

Harriet Reed died Mar. 15, 1878

Seneca Reed died Oct. 23, 1863 ae 78

Mrs. Bertha Reed from Gorham died June 28, 1834

Pethia Reed died Nov. 21, 1867

Mary Reed Letter to Lockport (church) Sept. 22, 1836

Letter from Lockport Feb. 15, 1839

M.A.M.

(Note - no place mentioned)

Apr. 26, 1835 death - Anna Reed w.f. of Reuben age 56

Members of church (Cong. & Presb.) - West Greece
Dr. Bradley's list of November 1867

Mrs. Harriet Reed joined Feb. 2, 1834

Mrs. Lucy Murray June 5, 1836

Wm. Murray June 7, 1846

Sunday School Registration at Congregational Church
June 7, 1846 by Dr. Bradley -

Mrs. Murray - teacher of boys 10-14.

Sophia Murray aged 4 - teacher Jane Hogle.

Mrs. Reed was in Mrs. John Cranger's Bible Class.

S. Reed in mixed Bible Class -

Mary A. Mouthrop records of Baptisms at ^(above) same church U. of R. Library

Oct. 4, 1847 George Reed Murray.

" " " Harriet Sophia Murray.

Sept. 5, 1852 William Dickinson Murray.

Admissions and Dismissals

June 28, 1834 Mrs. Bertha Reed from Pres. Ch. in Gorham, N. Y.
d. Nov. 21, 1867

Parma 1R Bertha Reed d 11/20/1847 at 59
not mentioned of old age

From Dr. Bradley's Diary. Card In.

[McIntosh History Page 207. Mother of ...]

Reed, Nicholas - One of first members of Church (Catholic)

~~Feb. 1, 1834~~ ~~James Reed Green Peace Church~~

Feb. 2, 1836 Lucy Murray dies at Reed's

Mar. 28, 1837 Nominated J. of Peace

Nov. 6, 1837 1st day of Election held at his place.

Nov. 7, 1837 Dine there. (Note Election held on 3 days.)

Jan. 30, 1838 Chairman of Town Caucus, and

elected delegate to County Convention

Apr. 6, 1840 One of Committee at incompetence hearing

Not knowing any family names - made these allotments.

If your records do not agree with any of these items would be glad to hear.

Reed, George + Mercy

May 17, 1828 Take tea at Reed's

June 28, 1833 Go to Rochester with Reed.

Oct. 30, 1833 He died. Dr. Bradley there all day

Funeral held Fri. morning Nov. 1, 1833

June 21, 1839 Pay Mercy Reed for making coat. 2.00

Aug. 22, 1840 Mercy present at birth of Dr's daughter - Sara

Reed, Dr.

Esq.

Nov. 13, 1833

Get my notes of him.

July 5, 1840

Attends a post-mortem.

From McIntosh History of Monroe Co. p.

1877 Wm. Murray Deacon of Parma Green Cong. Ch.

1877 - Dr. S. B. Bradley Clerk Organized Dec. 2, 1879

" Hugh Boylston Supt. of S. S.

James Hart Aest. " "

Frank Murray Librarian.

X not at Nicholas' house

From Dr. Samuel B. Bradley's Diary.

Nov. 14, 1839 Married - William Murray & Lucy Reed

Jan. 30, 1839 Board of Excise meets at Murray's.

Oct. 30, 1833 Death George Reed

June 24, 1844 Society at Wm. Murray's

Sept. 2, 1844 Miss J. Stearns, Mr. ^(?) Reed and Mrs. Murray visit here

Nov. 19, 1845 Wife goes to Society at Mrs. Murray's.

Feb. 17, 1846 Mary Reed comes to work.

" 22, " Carry " " home. (Carry means in cutter or buggy)

Aug. 26, 1846 Carry women to Society at Mr. Reed's. 30 p. and

Oct. 30, 1846 Pay Mary Reed. 3/ and carry her home. now in

Nov. 19, 1846 Mr. Murray takes tea here.

Nov. 6, 1846 " Old Mr. Reed at ^{Constitution} meeting. 88 yrs. old to-day.

Jan. 4, 1850 Got Murray's cutter

Jan. 8, 1850 Wm. Murray calls. Buy cutter of him \$12.00

May 11, 1850 Mr. Reed stays here some

" 13, " " " leaves

May 16, 1850 Dine at Mr. Reed's. Dr. Bradley went to Rock

May 26, 1850 (Sunday) Mr. & Mrs. Reed out to meeting.

Oct. 19, 1850 Mrs. Reed and Harris visit here.

Jan. 2, 1854 Pay Mr. Murray 5. on Mr. T's ^(Honey, that's mine. low) subscription.

March 7, 1854 Pay Wm. Murray 1.00 for singing

March 11, 1854 Dine at Mr. Reed's at Mr. Murray's. Very muddy.

From Dr. Bradley's Diary

Apr. 7, 1854 Wife goes to Baptist meeting and stays at Mr. Murray's.
" 8, " returns in evening.

June 8, 1854 Call at Murray's.

Aug. 2, 1854 Carry folks to Society at Deacon Murray's.

Aug. 29, 1854 William (son of Dr. B.) at Murray's.

Aug. 31, 1854 Called at Reed's.

Sept. 2, 1854 Deacon Murray calls and sell him preacher.

Sunday Sept. 3, 1854 Cornelia, Sarah (Daughters of Dr. B.) and Sophia Murray
unite with the church.

Sept. 4, 1854 William works at Murray's.

Oct. 7, 1854 Call at W. Murray's.

Thurs. Nov. 30, 1854 Thanksgiving Day. After church Sarah goes to Mr. Murray's.

Dec. 31, 1854 S. Murray here.

Jan. 1, 1857 Sarah visits at Deacon Murray's.

Jan. 27, 1857 Church Society meeting - Murray + Sheldon - Trustees

Feb. 24, 1857 ^{Mr.} Mrs. Reed & Mr. + Mrs. Hoblin take tea here.

Mar. 1, 1857 Mrs. Murray & Van Gieson call at noon.

Sunday Mar. 15, 1857 Deacon Tilton and Murray call.

Dr. Bradley was suffering from a swollen head.

Apr. 2, 1857 Go to Mr. Murray's to see Mrs. W's. child. See

Mar. 31, 1857 Mr. Hordock calls in A.M. Go to see his child.

Apr. 8, 1857 " (The new minister) moves into his house.
Probably Mr. & Mrs. Hordock were staying with the Murrays
as their goods arrived about the 1st of April.

Apr. 10, 1857 See Dr. Reed about my hand.

Apr. 29, 1857 Cornelia at Mrs. Murray's.

Apr. 30, " S. Murray here to tea.

May 19, 1857 Mrs. Murray and Mary Reed visit here.

June 24, 1857 Visit with wife at Deacon Murray's.

July 10, 1857 Sarah rides to Mr. Murray's.

July 25, 1857 Mrs. Reed, Stone and S. Murray visit here.

Aug. 6, 1857 Go to Deacon Murray's. See Irene Colby.

" 17, " Deacon + wife call in evening.

Sept. 1, 1857 Call at Murray's in evening.

" 2, 1857 Up at 3 A.M. Go to Canandaigua.

Carry Sarah and Sophia Murray to Female Seminary.
Arrive at 10. Dine at Seminary. Pay Mr. Richard
\$56. for self and \$50. for Mr. Murray. Back to Rochester
at 5. Home by 7. Warm P.M. pleasant ride.

Sept. 14, 1857 Go to Rochester. Send basket of peaches for
Mrs. Murray to Sophia 3/.

Oct. 3, 1857 Wife and ^{Jennette or} Jenny Fowler (a relative guest)
go to Mrs. Murray's.

On 6th Wife and Jennette go to Rochester with Mrs. Murray.

Dec. 15, 1857 Go to Rochester. Carry Cornelia to Mr. Murray's.

Dec. 23, 1857 Sarah comes home from Canandaigua for a
fortnight's vacation. On 25th Sophia
Murray and Cousins here to supper.

Dec. 29, 1857 At Mr. Reed's A.M.

" 31, " Call at " "

Dr. Bradley's Diary

Jan. 1, 1858 Girls go to supper at Mr. Murray's.

Jan. 7, 1858 Go to Rochester. Carry Sarah, who sets out
for Canandaigua with Sophia Murray.

Jan. 23, 1858 At Mr. Reed's.

Feb. 3, 1858 Mrs. Reed and Mrs. Storm visit here.

Feb. 8, 1858 Wife and Cornelia go to Deacon Murray's in Eve.

Apr. 17, 1858 Sarah arrives home, safe and well, and has
closed her attendance at Canandaigua.

May 4, 1858 Go to Rochester with Sarah. Stop at Dea. Murray's and get
strawberry plants; etc.

Aug. 12, 1858 Mr. Reed and wife here to tea.

Aug. 26, 1858 Sophia Murray here to tea and stays
" 28, " Carry Sophia home.

Sept. 24, 1858 Children go to Mr. Murray's in Eve.

Thurs. Nov. 18, 1858 Thanksgiving. Children go to Mr. Murray's in Eve.

Dec. 14, 1858 Call at Deacon Murray's.

